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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/634,045	08/08/2000	Drew Eric Wingard	02998.P011	5608

7590 12/10/2002

Maria McCormack Sobrino
Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman LLP
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025

EXAMINER

VERBRUGGE, KEVIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2188

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/634,045

Applicant(s)

WINGARD ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin Verbrugge

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 20 September 2002 is: a) ☐ approved b) ☒ disapproved by the Examiner
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This final Office action is in response to Amendment A, paper #4, mailed 9/20/02 and received 9/26/02. Claims 1-11 are pending. All rejections and objections not repeated below are withdrawn.

Drawings

The proposed drawing correction to Fig. 3C, filed on 9/26/02, is disapproved because it introduces new matter into the drawings. 37 CFR 1.121(a)(6) states that no amendment may introduce new matter into the disclosure of an application. The original disclosure does not support the showing of the new Fig. 3C. The only reference in the original disclosure to Fig. 3C is in the brief description of the drawings and that does not support the new figure.

Therefore, the original Fig. 3C is still duplicative of Fig. 3B and should be removed and reference to it in the specification should also be removed.

The amendment to Fig. 6 is approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent 6,115,823 to Velasco et al., hereinafter simply Velasco.

Velasco teaches that his "invention provides structure and method for a modular bus architectural (MBA) and fast modular bus architectural (FMBA) frames for System-on-a-Chip (SOC) designs including MBA/FMBA library modules that decrease design time" (column 4, lines 49-53). Further, he teaches that "the FMBA/MBA is provided with a configurable interface that provides alternative single-edge and double-edge First-In-First-Out buffers. Among other advantages, these FIFO structures permit interconnection of MBA/FMBA modules at the core logic level, MBA/FMBA block level, and chip level so that systems are readily and reliable [sic] designed and implemented with minimum redesign" (column 4, line 62 through column 5, line 2), the same goal as that of the instant invention.

He expands on this aspect of his invention in column 22, line 60 and following and in column 32, line 48 and following.

Finally, Velasco teaches that his device is highly configurable regarding the claimed signal enabling, function enabling, and parametrization at column 35, lines 47-60.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments have been considered but are not persuasive. Applicants apparently are essentially arguing that their invention is a configurable interface, while Velasco's device is a configurable core (page 4, second paragraph).

However, using the Applicants' definition of core (specification page 7, second paragraph, "... cores are defined as logic or circuitry that performs a function or functions that receives input and/or generates output at least in part through a configurable interface"), then Velasco's configurable core receives input and/or generates output through a configurable interface and his disclosure would then necessarily include a configurable interface.

Further confusion arises from the fact that Applicants have attempted to claim a "core comprising at least one interface signal" (claims 1, 4, and 6, for example). So while Applicants may be attempting to distinguish between a core and an interface in their arguments, the claims appear to speak against the arguments. If in fact an interface is separate from a core, then it is not clear how a core can comprise an interface signal.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants argue that "Velasco does not disclose an interface signal or a group of signals that are selectively present at the interface." However, Velasco clearly teaches at column 35, lines 50-60 that some signals are selectively present. For example, for parametrized RAM size, when a smaller size RAM is used, the signals for the larger size RAM are not used. Similarly, for parametrized RAM data

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bus width, when a narrower bus is used, the signals for a wider bus are not used. Also, he mentions different possibilities of Write Parameter RAM, Write Data RAM, and Read Data RAM and when one or two of these is not used, its signals are not present.

Regarding claims 4 and 6, Applicants argue that the configurability options disclosed by Velasco are internal configurability options that have no impact on the interface signals. From these comments it would appear that Applicants are characterizing the signals that are passed between the host 422 and FIFO 401 and between FIFO 401 and target 423 as the interface signals (see Fig. 31, f_tfde_ack, f_ack, rq_f, tfde_rq, f_tfde_rq, f_rq, cm_ack, cm_tfde_ack, etc.). While it is true that these signals allow the host and target to interface with the FIFO 401, it is also true that there are interface signals internal to FIFO 401 since the different elements inside FIFO 401 interface with each other. Since these internal interface signals are configurable (as admitted by Applicants and clearly taught by Velasco), the claim limitations are met. Again, Applicants are reminded that the claims are directed to a “core comprising at least one interface signal” (emphasis added).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this or an earlier communication from the Examiner should be directed to Primary Examiner Kevin Verbrugge by phone at (703) 308-6663.

Any response to this action should be mailed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 or faxed to

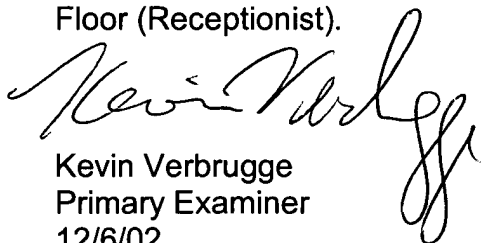
(703) 746-7238 After-final

(703) 746-7239 Official

(703) 746-7240 Non-Official/Draft

and labeled appropriately (After-final, Official, Non-Official/Draft). Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 4th

Floor (Receptionist).


Kevin Verbrugge
Primary Examiner
12/6/02

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Examiner's art unit number has changed from 2187 to 2188 due to the recent realignment of workgroup 2180. Please use art unit **2188** on all correspondence related to this case.
